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UNCLAS PARIS 001232

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: FRANCE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH REVISED TERMS OF  
REFERENCE FOR THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, NOTES CONSENSUS MUST

BE MADE

REF: STATE 030313

We delivered reftel points to French MFA Office for Disarmament and Nuclear Nonproliferation on February 22. On February 25 poloff spoke with Hugues de Longevialle from that office. De Longevialle said that the new terms of reference look to be an improvement over the ones he had seen previously. He said that while he and his colleagues have not had adequate time to go through the points in detail, the new terms of reference appear to be constructive and noted with gratitude that Washington seemed tuned to their original concerns. He added that the terms will need to be discussed in detail in Vienna where the BOG must come to a consensus noting that the original French concerns will remain -- they do not want to see the Special Committee become a substitute for effective mechanisms that are already in place. He noted, however, that the Special Committee, as portrayed in the new terms of reference, appear to provide a means to improve and augment the existing system rather than displace it.  
Wolff